



## News About Placer County Businesses

These news briefs are prepared by the Placer County  
[Office of Economic Development.](#)

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### **Photovoltaic Company Comes to Placer County**

Schott Applied Power Corp, a solar power company, has moved its national headquarters into a 23,000-square-foot facility in Rocklin, where it will house 40 employees. Schott is the world's largest independent distributor of solar energy systems. The company moved to Placer County, officials said, because California is the nation's biggest single market for solar electric components, and Sacramento is known as photovoltaic "headquarters." For more, visit [Schott Applied Power](#) or Placer County's [In Progress Newsletter](#) .

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## **Prima Games Signs Book Deal with Microsoft**

Roseville's Prima Games, a division of Random House Inc., has signed an exclusive worldwide agreement with Microsoft Corp. to write, publish, and distribute official strategy guides for video game systems. The first wave of guides will be launched this fall. Strategy guides are softcover books that provide helpful tips to buyers on how to play various video games. For more, visit [Prima Games](#) .

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## **Coherent Marks 20 Years in Auburn, Makes Red Cross Donation**

Laser-optics equipment manufacturer Coherent, Inc. recently celebrated its 20th anniversary at its Auburn campus, and at the same time raised nearly \$15,000 for the Red Cross Disaster Relief Program. Employees chose to forego a party and instead add party funds to a corporate donation to be given to the Red Cross. Coherent employs about 650 people in its 250,000 square-foot Auburn campus. Based in Santa Clara, Coherent chose to locate in Auburn for the area's quality of life and the available work force. For more, visit [Coherent, Inc](#) .

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## **Recycling Program Brings New Business**

When Ace Shredding relocated to Placer County recently, the county's Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) helped the company get re-established and obtain permits. As an RMDZ, the county works to assure a healthy market for collected recyclables. Any Placer County business that uses recycled material in its manufacturing process qualifies for RMDZ benefits such as low-cost loans and the expertise of the California Integrated Waste Management Board. The program goal is to make recycling economically feasible and to create jobs. For more information about expanding or locating your business in an RMDZ zone, contact [Bobbi Park](#) or call (530) 889-4017. For more about the program, visit [RMDZ](#) or visit Placer County's [In Progress Newsletter](#) .

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## **Placer County Honored with State Award**

A Placer County program to help keep residents in touch with county government and new projects facing their communities was honored recently as one of the most creative such programs in the state. The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) honored Placer County for its Municipal Advisory Councils (MACs) with a Merit Award for Excellence. The CSAC Challenge Awards program recognizes the best efforts of California's 58 counties to serve their constituents more efficiently and cost-effectively. For more, visit the Placer County [Press Release](#) Office.

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## **Local Delegation Visits Mile-High Region**

A delegation of local business and government leaders traveled to Denver last month to learn how that city has become one of America's most popular destinations for new businesses and residents. The Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce led the 78-member delegation, part of the annual Metro Chamber Study Mission program. The program goal was to talk with business and political leaders in other cities to learn "best practices" and to apply lessons learned in the Sacramento region. For more, visit the [Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce](#) .

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## **2001 "Year of the Arts" Highlights Importance of Arts**

To increase public awareness of the arts, the [California Arts Council](#) (CAC) last January launched the "2001 Year of the Arts." With the campaign, the CAC aims to convey that the power and influence of the arts can be seen and felt in all aspects of life in California, from the social to the economic. November is Folk Arts Month, highlighting the state's homegrown traditional art and ethnic heritage;

December is Local Arts Month, focusing on art at the community level. For local information, visit the [Arts Council of Placer County](#) or contact Angie Tahti at (530) 885-5670.

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## **Mail-opening Instructions Available to Businesses**

In an ongoing effort to keep citizens safe and up-to-date with factual information, the Placer County Sheriff's Department will be hosting community forums on mail-opening instructions. Officers are also available to train large employee groups. To schedule a presentation, contact Lieutenant Fulenwider at (530) 889-7858 or visit the department's [Press Release](#) .

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## **Small Business Administration Economic Injury Loans Available**

Prompted by the widespread economic impact of the terrorist attacks on New York City and the Pentagon, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) widened access to Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to small businesses across the country by providing eligible small businesses with the working capital needed to pay ordinary and necessary operating expenses that they would have been able to pay had the disaster not occurred. The application deadline is January 21, 2002. For more, visit the [SBA's Press Office](#) and for more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-U-ASK-SBA.

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## **Building Department Provides Expedited Plan Review**

To help permit applicants who want to expedite their plan review process, the Placer County Building Department has established a third-party plan review process. An applicant may contract with a department-approved third-party plan

review firm for its services. The Building Department will accept third-party approvals by these firms for the specific purpose of issuing a building permit. For more, visit the Placer County [Building Department](#) .

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## State Training Program Improves Worker Skills

A new program known as "Career Ladders" offered by the state Employment Training Panel (ETP) can assist businesses in raising the skill level of their low-skilled or entry level workers. ETP has up to \$15 million set aside for this training. For more about this program, contact [Pamela Casteel](#) or call (530) 889-4061.

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## Why an Economic Development E-Mail Newsletter?

You told us you wanted a quick, easy way to find out what's new in the Placer County business community. Our response is *In Progress Online* , a monthly e-mail newsletter. In it, you'll find short items about new and growing businesses, major projects in progress, our cities' and the county's development plans, as well as programs that benefit businesses. We even provide Web links for more details on each story. And you can let us know what's happening in your business. Send items, questions, comments or suggestions to the [Office of Economic Development](#) .

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### **CSUS Regional Economic Forecast Optimistic**

Employment in the Sacramento Region is expected to continue to grow for the next 12 months, increasing at a rate of about one- percent, according to the "California State University, Sacramento Forecast of the Sacramento Region." The report also forecasts continuing slow employment growth, with no prolonged period of negative growth. The Sacramento region, the report says, continues to enjoy higher employment rates than the U.S. and the rest of California.

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## **PrePlastics, Inc. Expands Use of Recyclables**

PrePlastics, Inc., a custom plastics manufacturer in Auburn, will double its use of reprocessed materials this year -- from 90 to 180 tons. Accounting for the expanded use is the company's new line of concrete construction products, molded of reprocessed plastics. The use of recycled material translates into substantial savings for the buyer of the new product line. PrePlastics is in the process of revising its web site and the site is often unavailable. We will give you a link to the new site in a future edition of *In Progress Online*.

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## **Solectron Corp. Acquires Artesyn Solutions, Inc.**

Solectron Corp. of Milpitas has paid \$33 million to acquire Artesyn Solutions, Inc., a computer repair company that employs more than 1,000 in Lincoln. Artesyn does repair work for Hewlett-Packard Co. and other electronics manufacturers. Solectron is a global giant in contract manufacturing of computers and other electronics. The company has an annual revenue of about \$18 billion producing goods for major brand-name companies. For more, visit [Solectron](#) or the [Sacramento Business Journal](#) .

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## **Free Small Business Management Skills Training Offered**

Small business owners can receive free management skills training through funds set aside by the State's Employment Training Panel. To qualify, owners must have at least one full-time employee (employed at least six months), and may have up to nine full-time employees. Owners must be involved full-time in day-to-day operations and have at least a 20 percent financial investment in the business. Training topics include accounting, writing business plans, marketing, tax requirements and more. For more, contact Pamela Casteel at (530) 889-4061 or send her an [e-mail](#) .

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## **Auburn Symphony to Present "Berlioz, Brahms and Bin Huang"**

The Auburn Symphony will present the final major concert of its 15th Anniversary Season on March 22 and 24. The "Berlioz, Brahms and Bin Huang" concert features a return performance by Chinese violinist Bin Huang, first-prize winner of several major international violin competitions, playing Brahms's Violin Concerto in D Major. Both concerts will be held at Placer High Auditorium, Friday's at 8:15 p.m., Sunday's at 2 p.m. Individual tickets at the door or by calling (530) 823-6683. The Auburn Symphony is in the process of building a new web site. We will give you a link to the new site in a future edition of *In Progress Online*.

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## **Visitors Information Center to Host State's Newest California Welcome Center**

More visibility and more services to offer are the main benefits the Placer County Visitors Information Center derives from its new designation as one of 11 California Welcome Centers. The new Welcome Center, located near I-80 in Auburn, will be included in all CWC publicity -- maps, brochures, radio and TV ads, print material and websites. That higher exposure is expected to draw more visitors, who will find the council equipped with a wide range of information, travel aids and connections, with regional and statewide tourism options. For more, visit the [Placer County Visitors Information Center](#) or contact [Elizabeth DePalma](#) .

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## **Disaster Assistance Loan Application Deadline extended to April 22**

The U.S. Small Business Administration has extended the deadline for its economic injury disaster loan program to April 22. Small businesses that suffered economic damages as a direct result of the September 11 terrorist attacks are eligible for working-capital loans of up to \$1.5 million, with a four percent interest rate and terms of up to 30 years. Loans can be used only for operating expenses or to make payments on debt, not for paying off or refinancing debt. For more,

visit the [SBA](#) or the Sacramento Business Journal .

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## **Sacramento Region Posts Above-average Job Growth for 2001**

Compared to the U.S. as a whole, California, and the Bay Area, the Sacramento region posted a smaller decline in employment growth in December, according to Sacramento Area Commerce and Trade Organization's "Economy Watch January 2002." The report notes that employment growth in the Sacramento region declined to just above zero, at 0.3 percent, while the U.S., California, and the Bay Area experienced negative employment growth -- -0.8 percent, -0.2 percent, and -2.0 percent respectively. In a historical perspective, the report says, the addition of 21,183 employees during the past year places the year's growth rate at about three percent, a little below the average of all years since 1989.

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## **Placer County Seeks Applications for Air Quality Improvement Grants**

The Placer County Air Pollution Control District is soliciting applications for air quality improvement grants. About \$700,000 is available to help fund air quality improvement projects mounted by public and private agencies, groups, or individuals. The District is primarily interested in projects that will start reducing oxides of nitrogen emissions from on- and off-road motor vehicles within the next two years. Projects will be chosen for grants based on cost-effectiveness in achieving emission reductions and, thereby, improving air quality. Grant application deadline is March 22. For examples of projects and more information, visit the [APCD](#) web site.

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## **North Lake Tahoe's Annual SNOWFEST Set for March 1 - 10**

Live music, a fireworks show, and a torchlight parade, all at Squaw Valley, open

this year's SNOWFEST, a traditional ten-day North Lake Tahoe-wide celebration of the winter season. Events include ski races of all kinds, Queen Coronation Ceremony, a snow sculpture contest, several parades, performances by Missoula Children's Theater, the Great Ski Race, Monster Dawg Pull, Sunnyside's Hawaiian Luau, Jake's Mardi Gras Party, and much more. For more, go to [schedule or reservations](#) .

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## **Placer County Rep Chosen Rocklin Chamber Ambassador of the Year**

Susanne McCabe, a Placer County workforce development representative, who works out of the Office of Economic Development, was honored as Rocklin's Ambassador of the Year at an installation and awards ceremony held in January. McCabe is one of 14 Rocklin Chamber Ambassadors who serve as liaisons between chamber members, staff, and board members. They attend functions, call and visit members, and act as chamber hosts. "Ambassadors work on a point system," says Mary Jo Edmondson, Rocklin Chamber's executive director. "Not only did Susanne earn the most points last year, but because of her demonstrated leadership, she was chosen chairperson of Ambassadors for 2002." For more, contact [Mary Jo Edmondson](#) .

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## **Why An Economic Development E-Mail Newsletter?**

You told us you wanted a quick, easy way to find out what is new in the Placer County business community. Our response is In Progress Online, a monthly e-mail newsletter. In it, you will find short items about new and growing businesses, major projects in progress, our cities' and the county's development plans, as well as programs that can benefit businesses. We even provide Web links for more details on each story. And you can let us know what is happening in your business. Please send your items, questions, comments or suggestions to the [Office of Economic Development](#) or visit the OED [Web](#) site.

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### **Placer County's Growth Rate Still No. 1 in State**

Placer County is the fastest-growing county in California for the second consecutive year, according to a new Department of Finance report on population estimates. Placer's population grew 5.1 percent between July 2000 and July 2001, adding 12,600 people to reach 261,500. Sacramento County -- where the population surpassed 1.2 million -- was ranked fifth with a rate of 3.02%. California's overall population increased to more than 34.7 million, a growth of 670,000 in the last year. For more, visit the Placer County [Office of Economic Development](#).

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## **Job Fair Scheduled for May 1st**

In the spirit of helping businesses with their staffing needs, Placer County's Business Advantage Network will host a Job Fair Wednesday, May 1, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Roseville Placer County Fairgrounds. The Job Fair is free for both the employers and job seekers. For more, e-mail [Cindy Burris](#) or call (530) 889-4090.

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## **Innovative Roseville Firm Cleans Polluted Soil**

EarthWorks Environmental, a seven-year-old Roseville company with 20 employees, is finding success in designing and licensing systems for cleaning contaminated soil. Sales this year are projected at about \$2 million, and owner Jonathan Brewer expects revenues to hit \$40 million in three years. The company uses a biological process to clean contaminated soil right on site with an SUV-sized device, and then replaces it where it was, eliminating the need to haul it to a landfill. For more, visit the [Sacramento Bee](#) or visit [EarthWorks Environmental](#).

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## **Tool Cutting Manufacturer Relocates to Lincoln**

A company that makes high-performance rotary cutting tools for the metal working industry has relocated to Lincoln from the Bay Area. A.B. Tools, Inc. brought with it most of its 25 employees, now housed in the company's 25,000-square-foot structure near the Lincoln Regional Airport. Owners Alan Baker and his son, Jon, cited quality of life and lower cost of doing business as reasons for the move. For more, visit [A.B. Tools, Inc.](#) , send them an [e-mail](#) or call them at (916) 408-2442.

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## **Rocklin Commercial Insurer Posts Strong Gains**

Financial Pacific Insurance Company, a regional commercial insurer based in Rocklin, ended 2001 with a gross written premium of \$68.1 million, up 19% from \$57.1 million in 2000, its parent company Financial Pacific Insurance Group recently reported. Founded in 1993, the insurance company said it is making progress in growing its business in other states. Consolidated net income for Financial Pacific Insurance Group grew from \$1.8 million in 2000 to \$2.7 million in 2001, a 48% increase. For more, visit the [Sacramento Business Journal](#) or visit [Financial Pacific Insurance Company](#).

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## **Sacramento Region Shows Increased Employment Rate in January**

While California's employment rate rebounded slightly from -0.2% to zero growth in January, the Sacramento region's rate increased from 0.3 to 2.3%, according to the Sacramento Regional Research Institute's "Economy Watch" for February 2002. Sacramento gained jobs primarily in state and local government, construction, and retail and wholesale trade.

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## **Grants Will Support Growth of High-tech Startups**

In February, Gov. Gray Davis announced three grants of \$200,000 to set up non-profit corporations to promote technology-based businesses. The grants will help develop three new Regional Technology Alliances (RTAs) in the Greater Sacramento area, the Inland Empire and the San Joaquin Valley. RTAs are non-profit corporations that combine public- and private-sector resources to accelerate the development of new, technology-based businesses. The grants will support the activities of each new RTA, expected to start in May. For more, visit the [Sacramento Business Journal](#).

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## **Call Center Class Graduates April 5th**

In an effort to meet the growing demand for qualified Customer Service and Call Center employees in Placer County, a fourth class will be graduating April 5th. This State of California training program is funded by the Employment Training Panel (ETP) who is funded through the Employment Training Tax, which is levied on California employers who participate in the Unemployment Insurance system. If your industry is experiencing a shortage of skilled workers and/or you need to upgrade your existing workforce skills, please contact [Pamela Casteel](#) or call (530) 889-4061.

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## **Western Placer County Offers Range of Recycling Options**

No fewer than 18 recycling buyback centers in Western Placer County are open to receive recyclable materials of all kinds. Centers are located in Auburn (four), Colfax (one), Granite Bay (two), Lincoln (one), Loomis (one), Rocklin (three), and Roseville (six). The centers are provided by the Western Placer Waste Management Authority (WPWMA), which runs the Material Recovery Facility, or MRF, a key element in helping those cities and Placer County meet the state's 50 percent waste-reduction goals. At the MRF, all refuse from Western Placer County is sorted to recover recyclable materials such as steel, aluminum, plastics, glass, cardboard, newspaper, junk mail, office paper, paperboard, magazines, grass trimmings, leaves, brush and wood. Household hazardous waste (HHW) such as oil, batteries, and paint can also be brought to the HHW facility at the MRF on Saturdays 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. free of charge to Placer County residents. For more, visit [WPWMA](#).

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## **Waste Management Board Offers Loans for Projects Using Recyclables**

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) offers loans to businesses for projects that produce a value-added recycled product. Projects must also divert solid waste from California landfills. Loans are below the marked

rate of interest, presently 4%, through July 22, 2002. "On behalf of the State and the California Environmental Protection Agency, we are pleased to support businesses that help keep recyclable materials out of our crowded landfills," says CIWMB Chair Linda Moulton-Patterson. "These loans help create new jobs and new products from reusable materials. It's good for business, and it's good for the environment, too. For more, call (916) 341-6525 or visit [CIWMB](#).

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## **E-Waste Recycling Database Available**

Each year in California hundreds of thousands of computers, copiers, fax machines, printers, TVs, and other electronic equipment become obsolete. To help residents dispose of this "e-waste," the California Integrated Waste Management Board has compiled a searchable database of electronic product reuse and recycling locations. Many components of electronic equipment -- metals, plastic, and glass, for instance -- can be reused or recycled. But if not managed properly those same components may present environmental hazards. To learn how to manage electronic discards, go to the [Electronic Product Management Directory](#) or contact [Terri Cronin](#).

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### **Economic Summit Finds Placer Economy Healthy, Strong**

Placer County's 11th Annual Economic Development Summit, held March 15th in Lincoln, verified that the county's economy remains rosy. Among summit statistics that emerged: for 30 years, the county has ranked No. 1 in California in personal income growth; the county ranks sixth in per capita income in the state. Key businesses such as Oracle, in Rocklin, and Auburn's Ceronix continue to expand. At the end of 2001, there were 12.5 million square feet of office space in South Placer, and 385,000 more square feet are under construction. The county's economic future, summit-goers concluded, looks bright. For more, visit the [Placer County Public Information](#) Press Release.

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## **Teleplan in Roseville Growing**

By quarter's end Teleplan International, in Roseville, expects to have 500 employees. That's up from 125 just a few months ago. In 100,000 square feet of space Teleplan provides full-service repair for precision electromechanical products in the computer industry. Teleplan fixes computer equipment for companies such as Hewlett-Packard and Cisco. The high quality, low-cost, environmentally responsible repair and logistics Teleplan provides accounts for the company's growth, officials said. For more, go to [Teleplan](#) .

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## **TCS Healthcare Technologies Links with Synertech**

TCS Healthcare Technologies, an Auburn company that makes computer software for health care companies, has linked with Synertech, a similar company in Pennsylvania. The alliance allows Synertech to offer TCS products, giving TCS a much-expanded market. TCS is a \$3.2 million company with 16 employees. For more, go to the Sacramento Business Journal .

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## **AeA Aids High-tech Industry**

With more than 3,500 member companies, the American Electronics Association (AeA) is the nation's largest high-tech trade association for the high-tech industry. Sectors covered range from software to Internet technology to advanced electronics and telecommunications. To advance the business of technology, AeA offers up-to-date high-tech news, financial conferences, market research, information on insurance and business partnerships, small business resources, state and federal regulations and legislation tracking, training programs, and many other services. For complete information, visit [AeA](#) .

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## **Placer County Appears in Prime Time**

Aired on television recently were two high profile, prime time commercials filmed in Placer County. One, previewing the soon-to-be released action film "XXX," featured a unique stunt off Auburn's Foresthill Bridge. The other, also filmed at the Foresthill Bridge, featured a woman base-jumping. That commercial was shown during the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics. For more, go to the [Placer-Lake Tahoe Film Office](#) .

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## **Small Business Development Center Offers Business Classes**

Working as a team, Sierra College and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) are offering two dozen affordable "Business & Workforce" classes at Sierra College this spring. The classes are listed in the new Kaleidoscope community education catalog. Also offered are several "Crossroads" classes focused on career changes or changing career goals. Besides classes, the SBDC offers ongoing confidential business management counseling. For more, visit [SBDC](#) . For a Kaleidoscope catalog, call Sierra College at (916) 781-0590.

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## **County Office of Economic Development Accreditation Renewed**

Placer County's Office of Economic Development has again received recognition as an Accredited Economic Development Organization (AEDO) by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), the largest membership association in North America serving economic and community development professionals. Only 26 economic development organizations in the country are accredited by the IEDC. The honor reflects the professionalism, commitment and technical expertise of Placer County's Economic Development Office, said IEDC president Jeff Finkle. For more, visit the [Placer County Public Information](#) Press Release or [IEDC](#) or visit the [Placer County Office of Economic Development](#) .

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## **Regional Economy Fares Well After Downturn**

The Sacramento region continues to lead California and the U.S. in employment growth, notes the Sacramento Regional Research Institute. The area continued its pattern of growth primarily in state government, local education, construction, and retail and wholesale trade. State government and the consumer-related sectors are keeping the region out of negative growth territory. Part of the region's strength comes from a recent surge of migration. Between July 2000 and July 2001, the region's population grew by 61,300, the highest growth in many years. For the complete Sacramento Regional Research Institute Economy Watch for March 2002, go to [SACTO](#) and, under News at a Glance, click on Regional Economy Fares Well After Downturn, then click on March 2002 Economy Watch.

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## **Office of Economic Development Wins Electronic Marketing Award**

The Placer County Office of Economic Development recently garnered a CALED Award of Excellence for its economic development promotions. CALED (California Association for Local Economic Development) is the premier statewide professional economic development membership organization. The office's economic development promotions included developing an interactive CD-ROM with 18 videos called "Where Treasures Still Abound" designed to pique viewers' interest in Placer County, creating an email newsletter called "In Progress Online" sent to area businesses and policy-makers, and updating the Office's Web site to provide up-to-date information.

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## **Job Training Available for Placer County Businesses**

Placer County businesses can find help with their training needs through a joint

state and local program. The State of California and the county's Office of Economic Development are partners in a plan to fund job training through the state Employment Training Panel, which provides up to \$85 million a year for such training. Eligible are companies with less than a 20% turnover rate that face out-of-state competition. For more, contact [Pamela Casteel](#) .

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## **Foresthill Woman Co-authors New George Foreman Book**

World heavyweight boxing champion George Foreman and Foresthill author Connie Merydith have teamed up a second time to write The George Foreman Lean Mean Fat-Reducing Grilling Machine Cookbook, a compendium of low fat, healthful recipes. The duo first collaborated on George Foreman's Big George Rotisserie Cookbook, published in 1999. Merydith is the author of Bread Machine Baking for All Seasons (Prima Publishing, 1997). The new book, published by [Pascoe Publishing](#) , in Rocklin, is available by calling The Salton Family of Products at 1-800-233-9054 or visiting Salton's [Web](#) site.

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## **What's in Your E-Mail Newsletter?**

In Progress Online (IPOL), our monthly economic development e-mail newsletter covers the latest news on Placer County business and industry. It reports on new projects in our cities and towns and keeps readers up to date on the state of the region's economy. IPOL posts news of state and local training, incentives, as well as loan programs that benefit business. It even provides links to more information on each item and news about your business is always welcome. Please send items, questions, comments or suggestions to the Office of Economic Development [OED](#) or visit the OED [Web](#) site.

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### **Sacramento is 10th Fastest Growing U.S. County**

Sacramento County was the nation's 10th fastest growing county in the nation between April 2, 2000, and July 2, 2001, based on numerical gains in population according to figures released recently by the U.S. Census Bureau. Placer County was the country's 20th fastest-growing county based on the percentage of population gain in the past year. Sacramento County gained 45,271 new residents last year, reaching an estimated 1,268,770 residents by July 1, up 3.7 percent. For more, visit the [\*\*Sacramento Business Journal\*\*](#) .

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## **Roseville Tech Firm Expanding**

TASQ Technologies Inc. of Roseville, a leading company in point-of-sale software used by retailers, plans a major expansion this year and next. The company intends to hire up to 150 more engineers by autumn 2003 and line up more workspace within six to 12 months, said company president Ron Chaisson. The company now has 500 local employees in two buildings -- one in Roseville and another in Rocklin. TASQ is riding a wave of strong demand for card-swiping technology, a sector that anticipates more sales as the nation moves away from checks and toward more electronic payments. For more, visit the [Sacramento Business Journal](#) or visit [TASQ Technology](#) .

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## **Granlibakken Opens Employee Housing**

Employees at Granlibakken Conference Center and Resort, near Tahoe City, have begun moving into the recently completed \$1 million employee housing complex situated at the base of the resort's one-lift ski hill. The facility will house 22 of the resort's employees, with two older facilities housing another 18. Granlibakken employs between 70 and 100 people depending on the season. Employees will pay anywhere from \$350 to \$800 for the new four-person studio apartments. Granlibakken is one of the first resorts in the area to provide for employee housing. For more, visit the [Tahoe World](#) or visit [Granlibakken Resort](#) .

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## **Six Sutter Health Projects Planned to Accommodate Growth**

Scrambling to keep up with growth, Sutter Health is moving forward with six new capital projects in the South Placer region. An estimated \$73 million in projects is planned for the Sutter Roseville Campus and elsewhere in the county, said Mark Miller, Sutter Roseville Medical Center Business Development Director. Sutter Roseville Medical Clinic will add more patients beds to its emergency department and intensive care unit and construct two medical office buildings in Roseville and Lincoln. Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital, among several planned changes, is

expanding and remodeling its ambulatory surgery unit, enlarging its emergency department, and adding a women's imaging center for breast health and bone density testing. For more, visit the [Sacramento Business Journal](#) . Visit [Sutter Health](#) to learn more about available programs.

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## **Medical Billing Company Boosts Workforce**

A Roseville company is riding the tide of increased demand for emergency-room services in four states. EMSource provides administrative and billing services emergency-room physician groups, has hired 38 new employees since the end of last year, boosting its workforce to 204. The company has hired almost 30 new doctors and other healthcare professionals in recent months to keep up with demand that's grown to 760,000 patients a year. For more, visit the [Sacramento Business Journal](#) or visit [EMSource](#) .

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## **Precision Metal Fabrication Company Locates in Rocklin**

Needing more space, Van Dyke Fabrication recently relocated to 8,000 square feet of space on Citrus Avenue in Rocklin. Three family members own and run the company, which makes a wide variety of products for the computer and electronics industries. Van Dyke Fabrication is in the process of building a new Web site. We will give you a link to the new site in a future edition of In Progress Online. For more about Van Dyke Fabrication, contact [Barbara Van Dyke](#) .

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## **Blaylocks Opens in Foresthill**

Blaylocks Inc. opened its new \$4 million, 54,000-square-foot manufacturing plant in Foresthill. The plant is located on the former Georgia-Pacific Mill site and is one of nine properties statewide accepted into the California Mill Reuse Pilot

Program, administered through the California Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency. Blaylocks makes electrical wiring harnesses and employs about 100, whose state-of-the-art facility officially opened on March 1st. The new plant is located at 5825 Sunset Drive. For more, visit [Blaylocks](#) or visit the State of California's Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency .

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## **Planning Documents Posted on County Web Site**

What is the community plan for the Auburn/Bowman area? How does a builder obtain a commercial building permit? Planning and building questions, from the most elementary to the most obscure, are answered in detail on the county's Planning Department [Web](#) site. Forms, applications, and fee schedules are also available on the site. Visit the [Placer County Code](#) for questions information on zoning and landuse requirements. Visit [Placer County](#) and explore the 18 links answering everything you've always wanted to know about county planning.

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## **PlacerGROWN Harvest Guide Available**

Just out is a colorful, 32-page PlacerGROWN "Harvest Calendar," a comprehensive guide to Placer County locations for purchasing the finest fresh fruits and vegetables. The guide includes listings of all the farms, ranches, wineries, and other businesses that sell fresh produce, noting what each outlet offers and when each item comes into season. Maps and easy-to-follow directions mark the route to each source. The guide was funded by the Ag Marketing Program of the Placer County Agricultural Commission. It is available at chambers of commerce throughout the county; the Placer County Visitor Center, 13411 Lincoln Way, in Auburn; and the Agricultural Commission Office, 11477 E. Avenue, Auburn. For more, visit [PlacerGROWN](#) .

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## Foresthill Ranch Garners Award for Waste Reduction Program

For the last two years, Shallow Creek Ranch, a small, family-owned business in Foresthill, has garnered WRAP awards, presented by the California Integrated Waste Management Board for outstanding efforts to reduce waste. Shallow Creek's efforts involve worms. At the ranch, composted waste products from farms, breweries, and coffee shops are used as feed for the Red Wiggler and European Nightcrawler worms the ranch specializes in. The worm castings are known as the richest type of organic topsoil, are sold to master gardeners, landscapers, homeowners and organic growers. The practice used is called vermiculture. Vermiculture, composting lectures and consultation are available; groups are welcome for ranch tours. For more, visit [Shallow Creek Ranch](#) or contact owners [Steve and Carol Smith](#) .

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## CalWORKs Program Refers Workers, Off-sets On-the-job Training Expenses

A Placer County work opportunity program called CalWORKs enables employers to select, hire and train new employees while receiving a partial wage reimbursement for those employees of up to 50%. After a training period of two or three months, employers can choose to keep the trainee as a regular unsubsidized employee. CalWORKs refers candidates best suited to each employer's job needs. For more information about hiring a CalWORKs participant, contact [Cindy Burris](#) or call (530) 886-4090. For more, go to [CalWORKs](#) .

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- [\*\*Summer Events Inaugurate Village at Squaw Valley\*\*](#)
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### **Placer County Leads State in Growth**

For the second year in a row, Placer County is the fastest-growing county in the state in terms of percentage growth while one of its cities, Lincoln, came up as the fastest-growing municipality after being second last year. The two were rated in the state's annual population growth statistics released in May by the California Department of Finance. [Placer County](#) grew by 3.8% in 2001; Lincoln's growth was 28.3%. For more, visit Placer County or the [City of Lincoln](#) .

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## **Northstar First to Use Environmental Energy Efficiency Standards**

Northstar Village could become the first project in the nation to extend a set of national environmental protection and energy conservation measures to an entire resort development project. Northstar and its development partner, East West Partners, have planned the new Northstar Village using guidelines developed by the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. East West Partners has applied to the building council for LEED certification of all village structures. East West Partners and Northstar also announced creation of the Northstar Sustainability Program, based on the principles of conservation, which means that a significant effort will be made to reduce the "footprint" on the land and environment at Northstar, while meeting the needs of the community. For more about the LEED program, visit the [U.S. Green Building Council](#) or visit [Northstar Village](#) .

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## **Newcastle Produce Launches Web Site**

A fourth-generation Placer County farming family, owners of Newcastle Produce, has opened a colorful Web site showcasing the fresh produce, made-fresh-daily deli items, gourmet desserts and gift baskets their store offers. Proprietors Francis and Jan Thompson own Twin Brooks Farm in Loomis. Jan notes on the Web site that "we are passionate about farming and committed to producing fruits and vegetables with that old-fashioned flavor and sweetness that my ancestors knew." The site also includes a family history, recipes and a calendar of events. Newcastle Produce is located at 9230 Cypress Street, Downtown Newcastle. For more, visit [Newcastle Produce](#) .

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## **Van Howd to Open Sculpture Studio-Gallery**

Known worldwide for his wildlife and western art creations, sculptor and painter Douglas Van Howd will soon open to the public Sierra Sculpture, a 25,000-square-foot studio and gallery located in North Auburn. In the art business for 30 years -- and in Auburn for most of that time -- Van Howd has been commissioned

to do paintings for many heads of state and private collectors, and monumental sculptures for museums, resorts, corporate grounds, city sites and private estates. Sierra Sculpture, which employs 14, is already a working studio; a gallery open to the public will open on site within the next few months. For more, visit [Van Howd Studios](#) .

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## **State Web Site Will Aid Small Businesses**

A Web site to help small businesses increase their revenue is expected to be launched soon. The site, a small-business guide to the state, will contain information on permit assistance, environmental regulations, state procurement opportunities, management programs and state financing. Sonya Blake, director of the state Office of the Small Business Advocate, is traveling throughout the state as chair of the Small Business Reform Task Force looking at what small businesses, those with fewer than 100 employees, need to thrive, so that the state can create a unified plan to help them. The new [Small Business Advocate Web](#) site, is expected to be launched by July 1. Until then, for more information, call the Office of the Small Business Advocate at (916) 323-9912.

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## **Placer County Honored for Achievement in Job Creation**

For its dramatic achievements accomplished through the Job Creation Investment Fund Grant Program (JCIF), Placer County was recognized in April by the California Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency with a certificate signed by governor Gray Davis. All 58 of California's counties participated in the JCIF program, and each developed its own job creation activities. Placer County's efforts included co-locating the One-Stop Center for Business, "Business Advantage Network" (BAN), with Sierra College Workforce Development Center, Health and Human Services/CalWORKs, and the Office of Economic Development, which offered an opportunity to create new jobs for CalWORKs clients through a "move-up" strategy; co-locating the One-Stop Career Center for Job Seekers with the Employment Development Department and Golden Sierra Job Training Agency; and developing marketing materials such as county's Web

site, a CD-ROM highlighting the county, brochures and the monthly In Progress e-newsletter. For more, visit the [California Technology, Trade and Commerce Agency](#) or visit [Placer County](#) .

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## **Ceronix Starting Second Building**

Ceronix Inc., which makes video monitors and touch screens for gambling, bowling and videogames, will soon break ground on a second building on the company's 21-acre campus in North Auburn. The new 10,300-square-foot structure, on the corner of New and Old Airport roads, will be leased out as high-tech office space. Eventually, Ceronix plans to have five buildings on the site. Ceronix recently launched a new interactive touch-screen sensor product line of gaming devices. For more, go to [Ceronix](#) .

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## **Film Office Director Profiled in Perspectives**

Beverly Lewis, who directs the Placer-Lake Tahoe Film Office, was profiled in the May-June 2002 issue of Perspectives, the Arts Council of Placer County's bi-monthly newsmagazine. Lewis, the article notes, has been immersed in the film world for more than 20 years. Before being hired in Placer County, she had made independent films and music videos and produced and directed several PBS documentaries. Lewis reports in the article that she loves her current job of attracting and supporting production of commercials, TV shows and films in Placer County. For more, visit the [Placer-Lake Tahoe Film Office](#) . To request a copy of Perspectives, contact the Arts Council of Placer County at (530) 885-5670 or send E-mail to [Arts Council of Placer County](#) . For more, visit the [Arts Council](#) .

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## **State EDD Web Site Lists Unemployment Rates**

In May, reports the California Department of Employment Development, the state's unemployment rate was 6.3%, down from a revised 6.5%. Last May, California's unemployment rate was 5.1%. Each month, on the second Friday, the EDD posts the latest unemployment figures -- along with county by county labor force data and industry breakdowns on its information-filled [Web](#) site.

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## **Loans Available for "Green Building"**

"A green building," says the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), "is a structure that is designed, built, renovated, operated, or reused in an ecological and resource-efficient manner." Projects that meet this criteria to a certain set degree may be eligible for loans from CIWMB's Recycling Market Development Revolving Loan Program. For a complete list of Green Building criteria and examples, visit [CIWMB's Green Building](#) or call Clark Williams (916) 341-6488. For more information about the Green Building RMDZ loan program, call Don Tsukimura at (916) 341-6536 or Jim La Tanner at (916) 341-6534.

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## **Summer Events Inaugurate Village at Squaw Valley**

Art shows, concerts, wine-tastings, food-events and festivals -- a summer-long line-up of activities marks the grand opening of The Village at Squaw Valley USA, a European-style alpine village of shops, eateries and luxury accommodations. The celebration starts July 4 with a New Orleans-style street party and Cajun BBQ. On July 6 the Sierra Artists Network presents ARTahoe, an art show along with music by a classical string quartet. A Brews, Jazz and Funk Fest is set for July 13 and 14, and the Squaw Valley Art & Wine Festival will be held July 27 and 28. For a full schedule of events, through September 1, visit [The Village at Squaw Valley](#) .

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### **TASQ Technologies Inc. Expanding**

TASQ Technologies Inc., in Roseville, a leading company in point-of-sale hardware and software used by retailers, plans a major expansion over the next two years. The payment processing company intends to increase its workspace within six to 12 months and hire up to 150 more employees by late 2003 said company president Ron Chaisson. Fifty new employees have already been hired. The company now has 800 local employees in two buildings totaling 165,000 square feet. TASQ is looking for 50,000 to 100,000 more square feet of space. A merger with First Data Corp. a year ago doubled the volume of TASQ's business. For more, visit [\*\*TASQ Technologies\*\*](#) .

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## **Habitat Restoration Company Relocates to Rocklin**

A recent move has brought Restoration Resources, a wildlife habitat mitigation contractor and California native plant nursery, to Rocklin. The company has 38 employees and an expected sales revenue for 2002 of \$3.96 million. Owner and President Riley Swift started Restoration Resources in 1979 as a custom residential landscaping company. Swift expanded into the emerging field of wildlife habitat mitigation in 1989. Since then the company has been doing large-scale habitat restoration projects. For more, visit [Restoration Resources](#) or contact marketing director [Brad Juarros](#) .

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## **Mt. Vernon Winery Opens Tasting Room**

Several years of working with Placer County to establish wine-growing and wine-tasting policies came to fruition early this month for father and son team Jim and Ryan Taylor with the opening of a wine-tasting room at their Mt. Vernon Winery, near Auburn. Jim was the first to approach the county about wine policies and a founder of the Placer County Wine & Grape Growers Association, which now has about 100 members. The group works with Christine Turner, the county's [Agricultural Commissioner](#) . At Mt. Vernon, six and a half of the winery's 31 acres are planted in grapes -- Syrah, Zinfandel, and Barbera. The tasting room, at 10850 Mt. Vernon Rd., is now pouring free tastings of 1999 Cabernet Sauvignon, 2000 Merlot, 2000 Old Vine Zinfandel, 2000 Chardonnay, and Cabernet Sauvignon Port. The tasting room is open Thurs., Fri., Sat. and Sun., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment. For more, visit [Mt. Vernon Winery](#) or call Taylor at (530) 823-1111.

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## **Tahoe's Bridgetender Restaurant Opens in New Location**

Sporting a bigger, sunnier patio, roomier bar, and more efficient layout, the Bridgetender Restaurant opened in May in a brand new building across the street

from its old location. A Tahoe City fixture for 25 years, the restaurant is still situated on the Truckee River near Fanny Bridge, at 65 West Lake Blvd. Owner Chris Park started the moving process when the California Department of State Parks, from whom he leased the old building, decided to tear it down and turn the property into a park connected with the Gatekeeper's Museum. The new Bridgetender was built and decorated to duplicate, as much as possible, the rustic charm characteristic of the original, Park said. The restaurant employs 35 to 40 people in the winter, 60 to 70 in the summer. Customers, a mix of locals and tourists, are happy with the new, improved Bridgetender, Park reports. For more, call the Bridgetender at (530) 583-3342 or visit the [Tahoe World](#) , click on Archives, register, and search for Bridgetender Restaurant.

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## **Plastics Maker Grows Through Innovation**

An innovative Auburn company attracts new customers by designing and manufacturing the custom plastic products they need. Starting small in 1986, PRePlastics built its business making a range of goods from ski racks and snowboards to housings on satellite global positioning system equipment. In 1998, the company outgrew its 8,000 square feet of leased space and built a new 20,000-square-foot industrial building in North Auburn. PRePlastic's latest innovative products include void formers used in making concrete tilt-up buildings, housings for a new electronic, laptop Bingo device, portable charging units for electric cars, and dowel caps used to connect roadways. For more, visit [PRePlastics](#) .

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## **Building Department Codes Available Online**

The Building Department uses several model codes to evaluate building plans and permit applications, before granting building permits. The department uses the codes, along with a series of on-site inspections, to help assure that buildings in Placer County are built safely and meet current generally accepted construction standards. For more, go to the [Building Department](#) .

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## **PG&E's 2002 Express Efficiency Rebates Available to Businesses**

For the first time, PG&E business customers can apply for energy efficiency rebates. Eligible measures include, but are not limited to lighting (occupancy sensors, compact fluorescent lamps, T-8 lamps, LED exit signs, etc.); and air conditioning (programmable thermostats, efficient AC systems, reflective window film, etc.). For application forms or eligibility information, visit [P,G&E](#) .

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## **NELLA Oil Acquires Bay Area Retail and Cardlock Sites**

It's official -- the owners of NELLA Oil company, in Auburn, have acquired the assets of Olympian JV, a wholly owned company of Olympian Gulf, in the San Francisco Bay Area. NELLA is owned and operated by the Dwelle brothers, whose history in the petroleum industry goes back to 1931 when their grandfather, Walter B. Allen, founded Beacon Oil Company in Hanford, CA. From their main office in Auburn and a regional office in South San Francisco, NELLA now operates a chain of 40 convenience stores and 41 cardlock sites. The company's wholesale division supplies 44 independent dealers and many commercial accounts throughout Northern and Central California. NELLA has about 450 employees and annual fuel sales of more than 300 million gallons. For more, visit the [Sacramento Business Journal](#) or [NELLA Oil](#) .

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## **Supervisors Approve Streamlined Land Development Process**

Placer County Supervisors last month approved a new, more efficient strategy to improve the county's ability to coordinate land development processes, both residential and commercial. The initiative, developed by county land use departments and deputy county executive officer Holly Heinzen, will incorporate technology (online permitting, greater use of the county Web site, etc.) and a

facility to make one-stop permit shopping easier. Faced with rapid growth, Heinzen said, the county needs to put in place a fair, efficient and timely process with reasonable standards for new development; to accommodate quality of life issues; and to provide for public involvement in the land development process. Board Chairman Ted Gaines, who voted yes on the initiative, noted, "The more clarity we can bring to the applicants, the better." For more, go to [Initiative Workshop Press Release](#) .

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### **Tully-Wihr Co., GKM Corp. Benefit from CalWORKs Program**

Industrial printer GKM Corp., and one of its distributors, Tully-Wihr Co., both in Colfax, started using Placer County's CalWORKs program two years ago. Since then, three out of the four CalWORKs trainees who started with the companies have become full-time employees, and one new employee is in training. During the employees' 90-day training period, the companies received a partial wage reimbursement of up to 50% for each one. In some cases, CalWORKs employers also receive tax credits. For more about CalWORKs on-the-job training program, contact [Cindy Burris](#) or [Marcy Schmidt](#) . For more, go to [Tully-Wihr Company](#) .

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### **Electric Vehicle Parts Maker Announces New Product**

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, Inc., in Auburn, has shipped the first of its new dual charging units to the electric vehicle market. The unit, DS-200-DL, is the first to be able to power two vehicles simultaneously and the first of its kind to receive a UL (Underwriters Laboratory) listing. EVI says the unit was developed as part of the company's continuing effort to reduce the cost of electric vehicle infrastructure. Since locating in Auburn in 1994, EVI has shipped more than 4,000 charging units, with many going to major automakers. EVI plans to make a charging device available to the state Air Resources Board for display at this year's Gold Country Fair, September 5-8, in Auburn. For more, visit [EVI](#) or contact [David Packard](#) . Visit the [California Air Resources Board](#) .

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### **Verizon Building Switching Facility in Rocklin**

Verizon Wireless, the country's largest wireless communications provider, is building a 43,000-square-foot switching facility in Rocklin. The single-story structure -- called the Verizon Wireless CCMTSO Switching Facility -- will be the central hub for telecommunications switching for Verizon's cell phone service. Located at One Cyber Court in the Placer Corporate Center off Industrial Blvd., the facility will be started in August. Projected completion date is May 2003. The design team is RPR Architects, Languenour & Meikle Civil Engineers, Randall Lamb Associates Mechanical & Electrical Engineers, and Ingraham DeJesse Structural Engineers. For more, visit [Verizon](#) or contact [Michael Perkocho](#) .

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## **Oracle Completes Expansion of Rocklin Campus**

In July, Oracle workers moved into a new, 123,000-square-foot building on the company's 34-acre Rocklin campus at Stanford Ranch. The new structure, which can house up to 700 workers, is located next to Oracle's original, 100,000-square-foot building, opened in 1997. Headquartered in Redwood Shores, CA, Oracle is the world's leading supplier of software for information management, and the world's second largest independent software company. Around the world Oracle has 46,000 employees in 145 countries. Oracle's Rocklin campus is home to tech support staff, marketing and sales personnel, and data processing functions, said Cindy Schaer, Rocklin's economic development and housing manager. For more, visit [Oracle](#) or contact [Cindy Schaer](#) .

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## **Ceronix Breaks Ground on New Building**

Site preparation work has started on a new \$2 million building at Ceronix Inc.'s 21-acre Auburn campus. The 11,500-square-foot building will be available for lease when it's completed late this year or early next year, Ceronix owner Don Whitaker said. The new structure is near a 63,000-square-foot office and manufacturing plant Ceronix completed two years ago. Eventually, Ceronix plans to have five buildings on its Auburn site. A color video screen manufacturer, the company controls more than 85% of the world market for gaming and amusement center monitors. For more, visit [Ceronix](#) .

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## **Lincoln Aerospace Systems Company Serves Aviation Industry**

WECO Aerospace Systems based in Lincoln, offers a combination of overhaul services, exchange units and component sales for the aviation community. Through many manufacturer affiliates WECO supports corporate, helicopter, airliner, agricultural and military aircraft industries. The company specializes in electrical and electronic accessories and instrument service. A privately held company with another office in Burbank, CA, WECO has 25,000-square-feet of facility space and more than 60 employees. For more, visit [WECO Aerospace Systems](#) .

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## **California Niche Builder Opens Office in Auburn**

Edge Development Inc., of Temecula has opened an office in Auburn. The privately owned company, which has 400 employees, sells construction management, general contracting and design/build services in California. It specializes in public works, particularly schools and university buildings, and commercial facilities. The six-year-old company says it has more than \$90 million of Northern California projects pending. The Auburn office is located at 200 Auburn-Folsom Road. For more, visit the [Sacramento Business Journal](#) or [Edge Development, Inc](#) .

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## **County Offers New, Non-Emergency Hotline**

Residents can now report urgent non-emergency situations after normal county business hours by using Placer County's new Hotline service. Free within the county, the service gives callers the option of leaving messages with specific county departments for response or action. Or the caller may speak directly with a county representative. During business hours, the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors office answers calls. In the Auburn area, the Hotline number is (530) 889-4000; the county toll-free Hotline number is 1-800-488-4308. For more, visit our [Placer County Press Release](#) .

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## **What's New at North Lake Tahoe?**

New attractions, indoors and out, await visitors to North Lake Tahoe this fall, says the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association. For outdoor enthusiasts, there is the officially opened Tahoe Rim Trail, a 165-mile loop running along the ridges and mountaintops circling Lake Tahoe. The trail is open to hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. For those who prefer to shop and dine, the newly opened Village at Squaw Valley includes Balboa Cafe (of San Francisco fame), PlumpJack Sports, Starbucks Coffee and Mountain

Hardware. And for skiers, Northstar-at-Tahoe will soon break ground on a new base village that will add 200 new residential units, conference space and shops to the year-round resort. For more, visit the [North Lake Tahoe Resort Association](#) , [The Village at Squaw Valley](#) or [Northstar-at-Tahoe](#) .

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## **Who's Growing What and Where to Buy It**

As fresh as it gets -- that's a motto of PlacerGROWN, a program that aims to bring consumers and local growers together. On its colorful, many-faceted Web site, PlacerGROWN directs consumers to a complete list of the farmers and ranchers in the county who sell fresh, homegrown fruit and vegetables, grapes and wine (made locally), flowers, plants, herbs, Christmas trees, and livestock and poultry. Also on the site is information about roadside produce stands, organic growing, farmers' markets, farm trails, and restaurants serving locally grown produce; a "Harvest Calendar," recipes, and more. For more about local growers, visit [PlacerGROWN](#) and click on Buy Local.

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## **County's Business Advantage Network Aids Employers**

Employers can find trained, motivated workers with the help of Placer County's Business Advantage Network, a resource service for businesses. Using the network, employers can receive, besides quality employees, a no fee employment service, federal tax credits, on-the-job training wage subsidy, and recognition for community involvement. Other employer resources include information from state and local employer councils and the opportunity to advertise job orders on the Web. For more, visit the [Business Advantage Network](#) .

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## **Recycling Business Assistance Available**

Wondering how to start a recycling-based business or how to add recycled-content

materials to a manufacturing process? The California Integrated Waste Management Board can help. Through its Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) program, CIWMB offers what's called R-Team services. Those services include technical, marketing, financial and business assistance. For instance, the R-Team can help businesses find sources for recycled-content products, provide information on low-interest loans or help with obtaining needed permits. For more, visit [R-Team](#) or contact via [e-mail](#) .

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## **Nationwide Disaster SBA Loan Deadline Extended**

The U.S. Small Business Administration has extended to September 30, 2002, the nationwide filing deadline for small businesses affected by the September 11 attacks to apply for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs). The previous deadline was May 22, 2002. The EIDLs are available to eligible small businesses that suffered substantial economic injury as a direct result of the September terrorist attacks or a federal action taken in response to the attacks. EIDLs provide eligible small businesses with the working capital needed to rebound and stay in business. For more information, visit the [U.S. Small Business Administration](#) .

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## **What's in Your E-Mail Newsletter?**

In Progress Online (IPOL), our monthly economic development e-mail newsletter, covers the latest news on Placer County business and industry. It reports on new projects in our cities and towns and keeps readers up to date on the state of the region's economy. IPOL posts news of state and local training, incentives, as well as loan programs that benefit business. It even provides links to more information on each item and news about your business is always welcome. Please send items, questions, comments or suggestions to the Office of Economic Development [OED](#) or visit the OED [Web](#) site.

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econdev@placer.ca.gov](mailto:econdev@placer.ca.gov)



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### **H-P Awarded \$225M VA Contract**

Hewlett-Packard Co. will deploy and manage Microsoft software for all desktop systems at the Department of Veterans Affairs under a contract valued at more than \$225 million. The software licensing agreement is an outgrowth of the PCHS-2 contract with VA awarded to Compaq shortly before it merged with H-P on May 3. For more, visit the [Sacramento Business Journal](#) or [Hewlett-Packard Co](#) .

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### **Lake Tahoe's Annual Autumn Food & Wine Festival Oct. 19-20**

A weekend focused on Tahoe's finest food and wine includes, on Saturday, a daylong culinary series of demonstrations and seminars presented by four celebrated West Coast chefs -- Michael Chiarello, John Ash, Jennifer Bushman and Lars Kronmark. Festivities, at the Resort at Squaw Valley in Olympic Valley, continue that evening with a Celebrity Chef Dinner at the resort's award-winning Restaurant Glissandi. On Sunday, a Grand Tasting and Culinary Competition will pair more than 30 of North Lake Tahoe's finest restaurants with world-class wineries, many from Napa Valley. A wine auction, raffle and mini-trade show close the festival. For more information, call Lake Tahoe Central Reservations at 800.824.6348.

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## **Oracle Publishes Pricing Guide**

How much did you pay for your company's business software? Oracle Corp. says its new 40-page pricing guide will make answering that question easier for its customers. Oracle, which employs more than 500 at its Rocklin campus, says it is the first major business software company to provide comprehensive guidelines regarding its global software pricing and licensing. For more, visit the [Sacramento Business Journal](#) or visit [Oracle](#) .

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## **North Lake Tahoe Conference Center for Business Meetings**

With room for groups of up to 400, the North Tahoe Conference Center, in Kings Beach, is available for business meetings or conferences of all kinds. The 16,000-square-foot, lakefront facility offers four suites with views of Lake Tahoe, a full kitchen and an in-house caterer. Rates vary according to the size of the group and time spent. The center hosts many Placer County agencies, among other groups, throughout the year. For more information and pictures of the conference center, visit [North Lake Tahoe Conference Center](#) .

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## **New Craft Store Opens in Alta**

Gina's Originals, a family-run craft shop in Alta, offers gifts, quilts, fabric, home decorating items, and classes in sewing, quilting, and crafts for children and adults. Opened in June, owner Gina Erickson, who held children's day camp craft classes at the shop this summer, says she is always adding to her inventory and right now is planning her lineup of fall classes. The shop is located at 33945 Alta Bonny Nook Rd. For more, visit [Gina's Originals](#) or contact [Gina Erickson](#) .

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## **North Tahoe "Green Building" Workshop Draws Sell-out Crowd**

In August, a sell-out crowd of about 90 attended Tahoe's first U.S. Green Building Council workshop, sponsored by East West Partners and Northstar-at-Tahoe. The workshop drew design and construction professionals from across the U.S. and from Europe and South Africa. It covered the U.S. Green Building Council's Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, a rating system used to evaluate the environmental performance from a "whole building" perspective, and over the life cycle of a building. East West and Northstar are attempting to make the Village at Northstar the first LEED-certified complete project at Tahoe. Fewer than 25 buildings worldwide have met LEED criteria. For more about the LEED program, visit the [U.S. Green building Council](#) . For additional information, visit [Northstar Village](#) or [East West Partners](#) .

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## **Sierra College's Small Business Center Fosters Innovation**

The Small Business Development Center is working with green inventors with help from Bob DeMatteis, who has 20 U.S. Patents with sales over \$1 billion to firms like Sears, Kroeger, Walgreens, McDonalds and Burger King. Mr. DeMatteis is a certified seminar leader and an internationally recognized, published author. For more, contact the SBDC at (530) 885-5488 or visit [the SBDC Web site](#).

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## **County Becomes Founding Member of Northern California WTC**

Placer County's new connection with the Northern California World Trade Center, located in Sacramento, opens markets around the world to county businesses. As a founding member of NCWTC, Placer County becomes part of a network of more than 500,000 WTC members and 350 centers worldwide that promote international trade. With its range of resources and services, NCWTC has become a powerful, centralizing tool for the business community, especially for small businesses, said Placer County's Director of Economic Development. Upcoming seminars, he said, will acquaint small businesses with the opportunities NCWTC provides. For more, visit the [Northern California World Trade Center](#) .

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## **New Recycling Loan Program Rate Announced**

The Controller's Office recently announced a new Surplus Money Investment Fund interest rate of 2.9%. That rate will be the new Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) loan program interest rate through December 31, 2002. For this fiscal year (through June 30, 2003), the RMDZ loan program is budgeted to make \$10 million available for new loans plus \$2 million specifically for tire-related projects, funded from the Tire Fund. For more, contact [Loan Staff](#) or visit the [California Integrated Waste Management Board](#) .

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## **84 Lumber Opened in Auburn**

84 Lumber Company, the nation's largest privately held building supply company, opened a new store in Auburn in April as part of a 20-stores-in-one-day opening nationwide. Like all 84 Lumber locations, the Auburn store is fully stocked with products used by local professional contractors. The 40,000-square-foot store is located at 3950 Grass Valley Hwy. About 50 employees including store manager

Tracey O'Campo, who has more than 16 years experience in the building supply industry, staff it. For more, visit [84 Lumber](#) or contact [Jeff Nobers](#) . .

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## City of Colfax Establishes New Web Site

"Above the fog, below the snow" is the tagline on the City of Colfax's new Web site, a colorful, complete look at this small historical town noted for its unspoiled charm. The site includes photos of residents, business owners and local landmarks. It provides links to city services and city news; living and doing business in Colfax; and visiting Colfax -- the city's festivals, annual events and historical sights. Colfax is closely tied to the original transcontinental railroad line, the site points out, and still has an Amtrak train stop. For more, visit the [City of Colfax](#) .

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## What's in Your E-Mail Newsletter?

In Progress Online (IPOL), our monthly economic development e-mail newsletter, covers the latest news on Placer County business and industry. It reports on new projects in our cities and towns and keeps readers up to date on the state of the region's economy. IPOL posts news of state and local training, incentives, as well as loan programs that benefit business. It even provides links to more information on each item and news about your business is always welcome. Please send items, questions, comments or suggestions to the Office of Economic Development [OED](#) or visit the OED [Web](#) site.

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### **Christian College Seeks Placer Site**

San Jose Christian College, a small private college, has filed an application with Placer County to convert the former Herman Miller furniture plant site, on 155 acres in South Placer County, to a campus for 1,200 part- and full-time students. The college would develop a new main campus at the site while keeping a campus in San Jose to serve its students there. Current buildings at the new site would be remodeled into classrooms, library, offices, residence halls, Performing Arts Theater, gym, playing fields and other student facilities. The nondenominational Christian College trains students for the ministry, as well as other helping professions. The college has entered into contract with Herman Miller to buy the property at 333 Sunset Blvd., at Hwy 65. For more, visit [San](#)

[Jose Christian College](#) or contact [Roger Edrington, Ph.D.](#)

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## **Expo Design Center Opens in Roseville**

In October, Home Depot opened the region's first Expo Design, an interior design and installation center. Located in Creekside Town Center, across from the Galleria at Roseville mall, the center employs 140 workers. It is the 51st Expo store for the world's largest home-improvement chain. Housed in a 102,000-square-foot building (including 92,500 square feet of sales floor space), the new center offers interior design, project management, installation services for kitchen and bath, and for lighting, flooring, window treatments and appliances. The next closest Expo Design is in the Bay Area, noted spokesperson Karen Powers. For more, visit [Expo Design Center](#) .

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## **Eskaton Village Model Apartments Now on View**

Two Eskaton Village Roseville model apartments, now open, provide a preview of residential accommodations available in this new continuing care retirement community. Out of 18 possible floor plans, the two furnished models display the one- and two-bedroom apartments. Situated on a 52-acre site in northwest Roseville, Eskaton Village will include patio homes and luxury apartments for independent living with services, assisted living, assisted living-memory care and a skilled nursing facility. Construction on the project is expected to start in the fall of 2003. Membership deposits are now being accepted. For more, visit [Eskaton](#) or call (916) 789-7831.

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## **Roseville Database Company Secures Expansion Financing**

CustomerLink Systems, a Roseville company that produces a database system

for auto repair shops, has raised \$1.5 million in bridge financing from its three main backers -- Akers Capital of Sacramento and 5280 Partners and Holden Capital, both of Denver. The money will be used to increase the company's sales force and meet a goal of profitability by the fourth quarter of next year, said CustomerLink CEO Wal Samuelson. Samuelson's goal is to sign up about 10 percent of the nation's 250,000 auto repair shops for the company's software, which automatically notifies customers when cars are due for some kind of service. The company, founded in 2000, now has about 700 customers. CustomerLink is seeking to raise a total of \$5 million in financing, Samuelson said. For more, visit [CustomerLink Systems, Inc.](#)

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## **Roseville Telephone's DSL Rate Reaches 15% Penetration**

Roseville Telephone Company, the telephone subsidiary of SureWest Communications, recently announced that the company has reached a 15% residential Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) penetration rate, a rate thought to be the highest in the United States. Also, Roseville Telephone is now capable of providing DSL service to 100 percent of its service area, said Brian Strom, president and CEO of SureWest Communications. The company's success with DSL, Strom said, can be credited to customer demand, Roseville Telephone's ability to provide its own ISP service through SureWest Internet and having a tech-savvy population base throughout the Sacramento region. For more, visit the [Sacramento Business Journal](#) , [Roseville Telephone](#) , [SureWest Communications](#) or contact [Jan Jamison](#).

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## **China Joins Northern California World Trade Center**

China holds more trade potential for Greater Sacramento Area companies than any other country, and the Asian giant's entry into the Northern California World Trade Center (NCWTC) has supercharged that promise. That's the consensus of local trade officials and businesspeople familiar with the Chinese marketplace, said Kelly Johnson of NCWTC. California is already the leading exporting state to China, and, according to the California Technology, Trade & Commerce Agency,

the state's sales to China grew by 32% in 2001 and are expected to increase again this year. The NCWTC, located in Sacramento, is part of a network of more than 500,000 members and 350 centers worldwide that promote international trade. For more, visit the [Northern California World Trade Center](#).

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## **Placer County Exhibit Wins Gold Medal at State Fair**

Fun-loving bees animated Placer County's Gold Medal award-winning exhibit at the California State Fair, held in August. Titled "Placer County -- A Wonderful Place to Bee," the exhibit featured a host of bees camping, boating and enjoying other recreational pursuits offered by Placer County. Forty-two of the exhibit's 62 bees were animated and four special effects were used. Only 11 of 50 participating counties garnered gold medals. The exhibit was put together by the county's Facility Services Department staff, headed by Tom Miller and a group of volunteers. For more, visit [Placer County](#).

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## **Autumn Art Studios Tour Runs November 9 & 10**

Seventy-four Western Placer County artists will open their studios to the public or share a group location during the Autumn Art Studios Tour November 9 & 10, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sponsored by the Arts Council of Placer County, the foothills tour includes works in most visual media -- oil, watercolor, clay, ceramics, pen & ink, photography, acrylic, pastel, jewelry, sculpture (bronze, steel and clay), printmaking, batik, etchings, silk, glass, gourds and mixed media. Artworks will be on sale, and artists available to answer questions and demonstrate their art. Tour maps are available for \$5 at the Arts Council of Placer County, in Auburn, and the Roseville Arts Center. For more, visit the [Arts Council of Placer County](#) or contact [Janet Nicholson](#) .

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## **New Bed & Breakfast Opens**

Southern California transplants Rebecca and Ed Arguijo recently built a 4,000-square-foot, two-story farmhouse near Colfax, painted it sunshine yellow, and opened it as A Little Pond Bed & Breakfast Inn. The inn, set in the green, quiet countryside, features three "cushy" rooms, a huge wrap-around porch and complete breakfasts. Guests can relax, walk, hike, bike, bird watch or drive the 15 miles into town (Grass Valley and Nevada City are 20 minutes away). Already known as the "big yellow house on the hill," the inn attracts with its tranquility and generous pancake breakfasts, Ed said. It is located at 1727 Deer Haven Lane. For more, visit [A Little Pond Bed & Breakfast](#) or contact the [Arguijos](#).

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## **Colfax Hotel Sold, Being Restored**

The old Colfax Hotel, vacant and in various stages of repair for some 30 years, has been purchased from the Brown family by Jim Payne, a businessman relocating to the Colfax area. Payne has submitted plans for restoring the hotel's exterior, and expressed a strong interest in returning the building to hotel use, said Colfax city manager Bob Perrault. Restoration and opening of the hotel is something the city would welcome, said Perrault. The hotel, at 10 East Grass Valley Street, is located near the heart of this historic railroad town. For more, visit the [City of Colfax](#) or contact [Bob Perrault](#).

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## **E-Mail Updates Replace Recycling Newsletter**

The RMDZ News, published by the California Integrated Waste Management Board, has been replaced by e-mail updates that keep readers up to date on recycling information. As a designated Recycling Market Development Zone, Placer County works to make recycling economically feasible and create jobs. The e-mail updates contain information about recycling loan criteria and interest rates, as well as news on market development. As new information appears on the RMDZ Web pages, e-mail subscribers will receive e-mails with annotated links to the appropriate pages. To receive the general RMDZ InfoExchange e-

mails, send a blank e-mail to [RMDZ News](#) with "subscribe RMDZ InfoExchange" in the header. For more, visit the [California Integrated Waste Management Board](#).

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## Health Startup Grows in Placer

A quiet Sacramento company that works with doctors to build and run specialized outpatient surgery centers will open a center in Roseville by early next year to diagnose and treat spinal pain. This will be the fourth center built by Titan Health Corp., a startup backed by \$5.1 million in venture capital last year plus a healthy dose of sweat equity. The new Roseville center, on Douglas Blvd., just south of Sierra College Blvd., will open in early 2003. It will offer spinal diagnostics and pain management. For more, visit the [Sacramento Business Journal](#) .

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## **Northstar & East West Partners to Build "Green" Northstar Village**

East West Partners and Northstar are working to earn for Tahoe's Northstar Village the first-in-the-world Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for an entire multi-building development project. Developed by the United States Green Building Council, LEED certification promotes green design and construction practices. East West and Northstar have also created a Northstar Sustainability Program that calls for use of state-of-the-art green building technologies to reduce the "footprint" of further development on the land and environment. The program said David Tirman, East West Partners project manager, is based on a holistic philosophy that permeates every aspect of the resort, and ultimately results in a community based on the principles of conservation. For more, visit [Northstar Village](#) or [East West Partners](#) or contact [David Tirman](#) . For more about LEED, visit the [U.S. Green Building Council](#) .

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## **Agilent Takes Lively Interest in Biotech**

Agilent Technologies Inc., is expanding its reach in life sciences with two licensing deals that will allow it to develop products to help biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies identify new drugs. Agilent, which employs about 750 people, said it entered into a worldwide licensing agreement with Large Scale Biology Corp in Vacaville that will allow Agilent to develop new technologies, and licensed a Seattle-based company's software to develop and sell to scientists. Both technologies will be incorporated into Agilent's existing product lines. Agilent has made equipment for the life sciences for 30 years, but is seeking to step up its efforts in the drug-discovery arena. For more, visit the [Sacramento Business Journal](#) or [Agilent Technologies, Inc](#) .

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## **Optical Instruments Company Expands in South Placer**

Ealing Catalog Inc., an optical instruments company dating back to 1850, was recently bought back from Coherent Inc., (which had acquired some Ealing product lines in 1997) and restarted as an independent company. With six employees, Ealing moved in late July into 5,000 square feet in the Atherton Tech Center. The company now has 12 employees and plans to expand into another 1,000 or 2,000 square feet on adjacent property within a

month. Through a partnership with Davin Optronics, Ltd., in Watford, England, Ealing provides customers with custom optical systems and components. Its customers are universities and people involved in researching photonics, a branch of physics that leads to the development of optical lab and industry products, including lasers. For more, visit [Ealing Catalog, Inc](#) . or [Davin Optronics, Lts](#) .

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### **Auto Parts Supply Firm Moves to Auburn**

Seven Enterprises, Ltd., a Virginia-based company that supplies parts for the popular Mini Cooper compact automobile, has moved its operations to Auburn. California, owner Ken Wilson, said this is the center of the company's customer base. Seven Enterprises opened in Newport News, Va., in 1974, supplying parts and accessories for the original, English-built Mini that was exported to the United States from 1959 to 1968. Earlier this year, a Mini resurgence began with distribution of a restyled Mini Cooper, built by BMW Group. The Mini now ranks as one of the most popular cars in America. The new Auburn Seven Enterprises housed in 3,000 square feet on Locksley Lane, employs five people. The company does most of its business through catalog and phone sales. For more, visit [Seven Enterprises Ltd](#) or contact [Ken Wilson](#) .

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### **Alta "Family-style" Cafe Draws Residents, Tourists**

Serving fresh, homemade, traditional American food, Mountain Home Cafe has been drawing customers from throughout Placer County since it opened in Alta last January. The mom and pop operation owned by Kelly and Tenby Wright, features family-friendly dining in a homey, casual atmosphere. Kelly was a gourmet chef in Arizona restaurants and resorts for the last 15 years. His specialties at Mountain Home are soups (the Friday night clam chowder is his most popular) and prime rib, served Friday and Saturday nights. Antiques and local artifacts decorate the cafe, which can seat up to 60 people in its three dining rooms and outdoor area. Mountain Home Cafe is open seven days a week, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., for breakfast, lunch and dinner located at 34945 Alta Bonny Nook Road. For more, call the cafe at (530) 389-2885 or visit [In Progress Online Archives](#) .

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## **NorCal World Trade Center Receives Grant to Launch Rice Syrup Exports**

The Northern California World Trade Center (NCWTC) has received a \$130,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to research exporting rice syrup to Korea and other Pacific Rim countries. On a 2001 trade mission to Korea, the NCWTC uncovered a demand for rice syrup in the Asian market. Knowing sales of California rice have dropped in recent years, the NCWTC proposed the export project to the USDA and received the grant from the Foreign Agricultural Service, Emerging Markets Program. With the grant, the NCWTC will conduct foreign market research to identify buyers, hold counseling sessions with producers and processors, provide Asian trade seminars and business matchmaking opportunities, and travel to Korea with local rice producers and processors to meet buyers face to face. For more, visit the [Northern California World Trade Center](#) or contact [Brooks Ohlson](#) or visit the [Sacramento Metro Chamber](#) .

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## **Squaw Valley Resort Ranked Fourth in Nation**

The November 2002 issue of Skiing magazine has ranked Squaw Valley USA one of the top five resorts in the country. In the annual resort survey, which ranks the top 25 resorts, Squaw Valley USA was ranked fourth behind the resorts of Whistler Blackcomb, British Columbia, Alta/Snowbird, Utah, and Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The survey also ranks Squaw Valley fourth for snow -- "the most important category in the ranking," according to the editors -- fifth for steeps and 14th for nightlife. The year-round resort offers 4,000 acres of lift-served terrain, ice skating, snowtubing, indoor rock climbing, an Olympic Winter Games Museum, shopping and dining. For more, visit the [Sacramento Business Journal](#) or [Squaw Valley USA](#) .

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## **Lincoln Arts Welcomes New Director**

Claudia Renati has been on the job since June as the new director of Lincoln Arts and Culture Foundation. To her new position Renati brings experience in business, paralegal

work, real estate and marketing. Excited about her new position, Renati feels she can put all her skills to work for Lincoln Arts. She plans to improve fundraising efforts and publicity, conduct more art shows and art classes, as well as reach out more to the community. Lincoln Arts was established in 1986 as an independent, non-profit public arts organization committed to supporting and promoting arts, culture and history. Every year, the foundation sponsors Feats of Clay, which brings together the country's best clay artists for a show at the historic Gladding, McBean Terra Cotta Factory, in Lincoln. For more, visit [Lincoln Arts](#) or contact [Claudia Renati](#) or visit [Gladding McBean](#) .

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### **9th Annual Mountain Mandarin Festival Set for Nov. 23 & 24**

Mandarins -- the seedless, easily peelable fruit and the many products made with it -- take center stage at the 9th Annual Mountain Mandarin Festival, at the Gold Country Fairgrounds in Auburn November 23 & 24, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event includes a Mandarin Recipe Contest, Mandarin Centerpiece Contest, Play With Your Food Area, cooking demonstrations, arts & crafts and entertainment. Local mandarin orange growers will be on hand with plenty of fruit for sale. A prelude to the festival, on November 22, is the Placer Harvest Celebration presented by Placer Land Trust. The event, also at Gold Country Fairgrounds, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., includes a dinner featuring PlacerGROWN agricultural products and catered by Ty Rowe of Bootlegger's Restaurant in Auburn. Tickets are \$25 per person. For more, visit [Mountain Mandarin Festival](#) or [PlacerGROWN](#).

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### **Recycled-Content Product Supplier's Workshop Set for Dec. 3**

The California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) and the Department of General Services (DGS) are offering businesses the opportunity to learn how to sell recycled-content products to state agencies. The event will be held in the Cal/EPA Headquarters Building in Sacramento, December 3, 2002, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. For more, visit [CIWMB](#) or visit [RMDZ](#) for more about the Recycling Market Development Zone.

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## What's In Your E-mail Newsletter?

In Progress Online (IPOL), our monthly economic development e-mail newsletter covers the latest news on Placer County business and industry. It reports on new projects in our cities and towns and keeps readers up to date on the state of the region's economy. IPOL posts news of state and local training, incentives, as well as loan programs that benefit business. It even provides links to more information on each item and news about your business is always welcome. Please send items, questions, comments or suggestions to the Office of Economic Development ([OED](#)) or visit the OED [Web](#) site.

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## Roseville Semiconductor Startup Raises \$12 Million

Sierra Logic, a fabless storage semiconductor startup, recently secured \$12 million in second-round financing. The cash infusion brings the total raised by the company to \$17.25 million. The new round was led by venture capitalist InterWest Partners and included existing Sierra Logic investors TPG Ventures, JP Morgan Partners and QTV Capital. Sierra Logic was founded in 2001 by four veterans of storage silicon products, all formerly of Hewlett-Packard Co. and Agilent Technologies Inc. For more, visit the [Sacramento Business Journal](#) , Sierra Logic's [Press Release](#) or Sierra Logic's [Web](#) site.

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## **South Placer Biz Collaborative Aimed at Local Entrepreneurs**

"The Fundamentals of Venture Capital" is the theme of a seminar set for January 23, 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon at the Sunset Center in Rocklin. Aimed at entrepreneurs and growth-oriented companies, the seminar is being presented by the South Placer Business Collaborative, a partnership formed to help support entrepreneurship and economic development in Placer County. Collaborative partners include the cities of Lincoln, Rocklin and Roseville, their respective chambers of commerce, and Placer County's Office of Economic Development. A panel of experts at the seminar will discuss how angel investors and venture capitalists find and invest in businesses. The cost, which includes a continental breakfast, is \$40 per person by Jan. 15; \$50 per person after that date. The event is sponsored by the Sacramento Business Journal and Golden Capital Network. For more information or to register call (916) 624-2548, contact the [Rocklin Chamber of Commerce](#) or the Rocklin Chamber's [Web](#) site.

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## **County Wins Governor's Award for Placer Legacy**

Placer County's open-space program has received the state's most prestigious environmental honor from the Governor's office. Governor Gray Davis named Placer Legacy a winner of a 2002 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award, which was accepted in Sacramento on December 4 by Placer County Supervisors Robert Weygandt and Harriet White. Tribute was also paid to the Sierra Business Council, a major private sector partner in the county's establishment of Placer Legacy. In his written tribute to Placer Legacy, the governor said the program "was developed to permanently protect the open space resources of Placer County, the fastest-growing county in the state." For more, visit the Placer County Public Information [Press Release](#) .

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## **Innovative Urban-Improvement Project Wins Caltrans Award**

A \$12 million project that made Tahoe City more pedestrian-friendly recently earned Placer County and several partners an Excellence in Transportation Award from the California Department of Transportation. Completed in 2000, the Tahoe City Urban Improvement Project helped make the community more pedestrian-friendly for local

residents and tourists, reduce dependence on automobiles and strengthen the city's commercial corridor. For more, go to the Placer County Public Information [Press Release](#) .

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### **Lincoln's Beermann's Beerwerks Reopened**

Beermann's Beerwerks has reopened in Lincoln as a restaurant and pub open daily for lunch and dinner, including brunch on weekends. Beermann's operates in a 12,000-square-foot historic building that has been completely restored. The restaurant originally opened early in 2000 with a high-end menu and a staff of 100. Better-received this time with its brewpub menu, Beermann's is thriving. Live music is offered most weekends in the pub's third floor theatre. The restaurant is planning a special New Year's Eve dinner-dance party. For more, visit the [Sacramento Business Journal](#) or [Beermann's Beerwerks](#) .

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### **World Trade Center Mission to China Set for March 2003**

A trade mission to China, one of many sponsored by the Northern California World Trade Center (WTC), is scheduled for March 24 - April 4, 2003. Participants will meet with high-level government officials and private business leaders, trade representatives, factory managers, as well as potential business partners. The trade mission will provide opportunities for businesses to present their products and services to potential customers and make connections in China's emerging market. Business meetings will be tailored to accommodate the goals and interests of each trade mission participant. WTC has also sponsored trade missions to Mexico, Italy and the Philippines. A mission to Ghana, West Africa, is scheduled for summer 2003. For more about the trade mission to China or other missions, visit the [Northern California World Trade Center](#) or contact Brooks Ohlson at (916) 447-9827 or [e-mail](#) .

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### **Wine Tasting Room Opens in Auburn**

Chicago native Gary Moffat opened Carpe Vino! in Auburn last summer in an Old Town building that dates back to 1855. Moffat, who owns and operates the business with his wife, Laura, and his son, remodeled the building, which now includes a tasting room and a retail wine store. Carpe Vino! offers three flights of wine daily. Each flight consists of five wines. There are "vertical" flights, of, say, five merlots or five pinots; and "horizontal" flights featuring several kinds of wine from the same winery. The store carries a wide variety of Foothills wines, as well as many from Napa Valley and other countries. For more, visit the [Sacramento Business Journal](#) or [Carpe Vino!](#)

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### **Public Works Employee Wins Film Industry Honor**

A 32-year veteran of Placer County's Public Works Department recently received a prestigious film-industry award. Clark Newton, an engineering technician in the department's Road Maintenance Division, was named County Employee of the Year at the eighth annual California On-Location Awards ceremony held October 13 in Marina Del Rey. Newton was honored for his help with filming "XXX," an action movie starring Vin Diesel. He helped orchestrate a scene in which a stuntman, atop a Corvette, hurtles off the Foresthill Bridge and plunges into the American River Canyon. Public Works director Tim Hackworth said Newton is a deserving award recipient, emphasizing that he's an employee who's always ready to lend a hand. A panel of industry professionals picked the award winners. For more, visit the Placer County Public Information [Press Release](#) . For more about filming in Placer County, go to the [Placer-Lake Tahoe Film Office](#) .

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### **Harvest Calendar Available on PlacerGROWN Website**

What fruits and vegetables come into season in what month? That information is easily accessed on the Web site for PlacerGROWN, a county-wide cooperative of local agricultural producers. The colorful site also includes a directory of Placer County farmers and producers, locations of stores and roadside stands selling locally grown fresh produce, recipes calling for fresh produce, a list of restaurants that feature PlacerGROWN products, a calendar of PlacerGROWN events, festivals, conferences, and seminars; and

information on organic farming and the grants PlacerGROWN gives to help promote agriculture in Placer County. Incidentally, the site's Harvest Calendar shows that right now, in December, mandarins, kiwis and persimmons are in season and ready to eat. For more, visit [PlacerGROWN](#) and click on "Harvest Calendar."

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### **Placer County's Exhibit a Favorite at State Fair**

By popular vote, visitors to this year's California State Fair chose Placer County's exhibit as the recipient of People's Choice Award. The exhibit, titled "Placer County -- A Wonderful Place to Bee," featured a colorful collection of bees camping, boating and enjoying other recreational pursuits. Forty-two of the exhibit's 62 bees were animated, and four special effects were used. Created by a team of volunteers, county staff, and local sponsors, the exhibit also won a gold medal, one of only 11 awarded to the 50 participating counties. For more, visit the Placer County Public Information [Press Release](#) .

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### **Manufacturers' Employee Training Available**

Manufacturers who would like to upgrade their employees' skills are invited to contact the county's economic development office to apply for free training programs. Training funds are provided by the state's Employment Training Panel (ETP), and classes are taught by Sierra College instructors. Last year, the economic development office trained 52 supervisors and team leads in supervisory/leadership skills, and another 17 trainees in soldering/surface mount technology training. For ETP eligibility requirements, to reserve employee-training slots or to suggest training needs, contact business developer Pamela Casteel at (530) 889-4061 or [e-mail](#) .

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### **What's in Your E-mail Newsletter?**

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